

What is claimed is:

1. An keying apparatus in communication with a primary device used for identification purposes prior to said primary device subsequently enabling additional functionality, said apparatus comprising:

a) a base component having an array of pins affixed to at least one side thereof with each of said pins in communication with said primary device;

b) at least one identifier having a plurality of holes therethrough with said base component's pins passing through each of their respective holes aligned therewith such that said identifier can be pressed onto said base component's pin array;

c) means for ensuring proper orientation and alignment of said identifier's plurality of holes with respect to said array of fixed pins prior to said identifier being pressed onto said pin array;

d) a pin detector associated with at least one hole in said identifier for the detection of said aligned pin passing therethrough with each configuration of holes having pin detectors associated therewith being unique to each identifier along any single pin's vertical axis;

e) communication means for communicating from said pin detector back to said primary device that a pin passes therethrough; and

f) means for determining specific identifiers by comparing communicated locations of each of said detected pins with locations of known identifiers stored in a database.

2. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said orientation means comprises at least one post affixed to one of said base component or said identifier and having at least one corresponding hole through the other of said base component or said identifier through which said post passes so as to properly orient said identifier with respect to said pin array prior to the proper placement thereon.

3. An apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein at least one portion of said post is keyed and wherein said corresponding hole is also keyed so as to allow said keyed post to pass through said keyed hole in at least one correct orientation.

4. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said identifier comprises electronic circuitry so as to enable the communication of additional information by said identifier to said primary device when said identifier is placed onto said pin array.

5. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein each of said base component's pins communicate to said primary device information regarding their location within the array of pins.

6. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said pins are comprised of a conductive material and said pin detector comprising a conductive sleeve fitted into its associated hole and in electrical communication with said primary device through said orientation means.

7. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said means for determining specific identifiers comprises a Central Processing Unit (CPU) programmed to perform a comparison and identification function.